

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01651 060714Z

ACTION EA-09

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8360

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1651

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US, CH, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

REFS: A) STATE 183212, B) STATE 184485

1. USLO OFFICER CALLED ON MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT FOREIGN PRESS LIAISON DIVISION DIRECTOR MA YU-CHEN MORNING OF AUGUST 6 TO REQUEST MFA CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO REGARD JOURNALISTS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF AS SEPARATE CATEGORIES (REF A), TO PRESENT DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON INCLUSION OF RESIDENT INTERNATIONAL PRESS (REF B), TO INQUIRE ABOUT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIME FOR NON-ACCOMPANYING PRESS (REF B), AND TO SEEK GUIDELINES ON PRESS ACTIVITIES WHEN NOT ATTACHED TO SECRETARY'S PARTY (REF B).

2. MA LISTENED POLITELY TO EXPLANATION OF REASONING UNDERLYING PROPOSAL THAT JOURNALISTS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT CREW BE REGARDED SEPARATELY; TOOK NOTE OF THE DELETION OF NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, AND CHICAGO TRIBUNE REPORTERS; AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO
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HIS SUPERIORS. HE THEN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING "CANDID PERSONAL VIEWS":

--THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS NEVER CONSIDERED THAT A DISTINCTION EXISTS BETWEEN JOURNALISTS AND TECHNICAL CREW WITHIN THE PRESS PARTY; ALL PARTICIPATE EQUALLY IN COVERAGE OF VISITS.

--THE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST PROPOSAL REPRESENTS THE THIRD

TIME THAT SIZE OF THE PRESS PARTY HAS BEEN RAISED. AS THE LIMITATION TO 20 REPRESENTED A "DECISION BY THE LEADERSHIP LEVEL," THERE WAS "LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE REVERSED."

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THAT MA WILL CALL IN USLO OFFICER ON AUGUST 8 OR 9 TO CONFIRM THAT THE DECISION ON A MAXIMUM OF 20 IN THE PRESS PARTY WILL STICK. AT THAT TIME USLO WILL PRESENT TO MA THE "UNIFIED LIST" OF 20. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WILL REQUIRE THE NAMES OF THE STILL PHOTOGRAPHER, THE POOL CAMERAMAN, AND THE POOL SOUNDMAN.

4. MA INDICATED THAT CHINESE SIDE WILL FACILITATE PARTICIPATION BY RESIDENT INTERNATIONAL PRESS IN ALL APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES. HE REITERATED THAT CHINESE PRACTICE IS TO EXCLUDE NON-AMERICAN PRESS FROM WELCOMING BANQUET.

5. MA STATED THAT THE CHINESE SIDE HAD NOT YET "STUDIED" THE QUESTION OF PRIOR ARRIVAL AND LATER DEPARTURE BY NON-ACCOMPANYING PRESS TRAVELLING COMMERCIALLY TO PEKING. "IN GENERAL," MA OBSERVED, "THERE CANNOT BE TOO GREAT A DISPARITY IN ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES SINCE THE PURPOSE, AFTER ALL, IS TO COVER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT." MA PROMISED TO GIVE AN EXPLICIT REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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6. MA OFFERED THE FOLLOWING "PERSONAL" VIEWS REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR PRESS WHEN NOT ATTACHED TO THE SECRETARY'S PARTY:

--"IN GENERAL" THE PRESS WILL BE EXPECTED TO COVER ALL EVENTS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO COVER -- "OTHERWISE THERE MUST ARISE A QUESTION AS TO THEIR PURPOSE IN COMING TO CHINA."

--THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT WILL USUALLY MAKE SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS DURING EVENTS THAT THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO COVER, SUCH AS CLOSED SESSIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND HIS COUNTERPART.

--IF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PARTY ELECT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN CERTAIN ACTIVITIES -- A TRIP TO THE GREAT WALL, FOR EXAMPLE -- THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS NO MEANS OF OBLIGING THEM TO GO. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT WILL NOT MAKE SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM.

7. COMMENT: PLEASE ADVISE IF MA'S REPLY ADDRESSES DEPARTMENT'S QUESTION ABOUT "GENERAL GUIDELINES."

8. ROOM AT MINZU HOTEL WILL BE BOOKED FOR EA/P DIRECTOR CANNON BEGINNING AUGUST 17 (REF A).

9. FOR HONG KONG: YOU MAY WISH TO ASK FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
OF HONG KONG - BASED JOURNALISTS ON LIST OF
20 AND FORWARD WITH TRAVELERS (USLO STAFF OR FRIENDLY
DIPLOMATS/PRESS) TO PEKING (ATTN: KEYSER).
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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